(t>) whether it was unanimously agreed to use electronic voting machines in all the future elections and also to issue multi-purpose identity cards to all voters in the country; and

(c) if so, the estimated expenditure involved in getting electronic voting machines and to issue identity cards?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The consensus in the meeting was in favour of use of electronic voting machines at future elections. No decision was, however, taken in regard to issue of multi-purpose identity cards to voters in the country.

(c) It is estimated that a total number of 6 lakh machines will be required to cover all parliamentary constituencies in the country. The Election Commission has already procured 1. 5 lakh machines at the cost of Rs. 75 crores and the remaining 4. 5 lakh machines are estimated to cost about Rs. 225 crores.

इस्पात नीति का उदारीकरण

*117. डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच हैं कि इस्पात विभाग ने इस्पात नीति को और उदार बनाने के लिए कतिपय सुझाव दिये हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या और सरकार द्वारा उन पर क्या निर्णय लिया गया है ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री अशोक कुमार सेन) : (क) और (ख) सरकार ने गौण इस्पात क्षेत्र की उन इकाइयों जिनकी क्षमता 10 लाख मी० टन प्रति इकाई है और जो ई०ए०एफ०/ऊर्जा इष्टमीकरण प्रौद्योगिक पर आधारित हैं, के लिए अनेक उदार उपाय किए हैं जैसे कि आधुनिकीकरण विस्तार के लिए विद्यमान इकाइयों को अनुमति देना, अग्रगामी और पश्चगामी एकीकरण के लिए सुविधा स्थापित करने और इस्पात तैयार करने के लिए अतिरिक्त क्षमता सृजित करना ।

Export of iron ore

*118. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether considerable amount of high grade iron ore continues to be exported from Bailadila and other mines for want ol adequate steel production capacity;

(b) whether large quantities of finished steel are being imported;

(c) if so, the quantum and value in foregin exchange of iron ore exported during 1988, 1989 and 1990 so far;

(d) what additional steel production capacity is proposed to be installed in the country during the Eighth Plan psriod; and

(e) whether Government contemplate to make value added exports in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI ASHOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) India has been exporting high grade iron ore from the Bailadila and other mines after meeting the requirements of the indigenous steel industry.

(b) On an average, about 1. 5 MT of finished steel is imported per annum.

(c) The quantum and value of iron ore exports since 1988-89 has been as

(In Lakh tonnes) (Rs. in crores)

Year	Quantity	Value
		665 38
1989-90 •	**337- 70**	**891-12**
(April— November)		**569. 52**

(d) As per projections of the Working Group on Iron & Steel Industry for the 8th Plan the production of crude steel is expected to increase from about 14. 0 MT in 1989-90 to about 25 MT by 1994-95.

(e) Yes, Sir. The present projections are that about 2 MT of steel will be capable of being exported by 1994-95, and 4 MT by the year 2000 A. D.

Privatisation of container depots and container freight stations

*119. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise container depots and container freight stations in the near future;

(b) if so, whether departments con-' earned with economic activities have agreed to the said decision; and

(c) whether there is any viable alternative to handing over to the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) to (c) With a view to expediting the development of containerisation and to facilitate growth of multimodal transport services, on cost effective basis, participation of private sector in Inland Container Depots (ICDs) end Container Freight Stations (CFSs) has been examined from time to time. While complete agreement has not been reached on various aspects relating to ownership and management of ICDs and CFSs by private sector, however, for the present, a consensus has evolved on certain specific activities such as handling and transportation of cargo being contracted to private sector agency on commercial basis in operation of ICDs and CFSs.

Quota of pig iron for small scale Industries in Gujarat

*120. SHRI VITHAIBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat Government has requested the Central Government to increase the quota of pig iron for small scale industries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the allocation of pig iron to Gujarat has been considerably reduced;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Steel Authority of India Limited has failed to supply the allocated quota of pig iron in the current year; and

(e) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the demand of Gujarat State?